Per capita availability of water

4782. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations has lately prepared the first ever World Water Development Report;

(b) if so, whether India despite its rich river water resources ranks 120th of the 122 countries in terms of water quality and 133rd among 180 in terms of water availability;

(c) what is the per capita availability of water in India, State-wise, and the highest and lowest per capita availability in any country; and

(d) what steps are taken to increase per capita availability and quality of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir. 'United Nations World Water Development Report—Water for people, Water for Life', has been released on the eve of Third World Water Forum held during March, 2003.

(b) As per the report, India has been ranked 120th among 122 nations in the world in terms of quality of water and 133rd among 180 nations in terms of water availability.

(c) As per the assessment made by the Central Water Commission, the average annual water availability in the river systems of the country is assessed at 1869 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). The water resources are assessed river basin-wise. The per capita availability of water as per population census figures of the year 2001 is 1820 cubic metre per year on a national level. The highest per capita average availability of water in the country is estimated as 16,990 cubic metre annually in Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar followed by 13,636 cubic metre annually in Brahmaputra-Barak Sub-basin and the lowest per capita average availability of water in the country is estimated as 298 cubic metre annually in Sabarmati basin.

The per capita availability of water, river basin-wise, is given in the one close statement (*see* below). As per the United Nations World Water Development Report, Green land has the highest per capita water availability of 10,767,857 cubic metre annually and Kuwait has the lowest viz. 10 cubic metre per capita annually.

(d) In order to augment the availability of water for various uses and their efficient use, schemes are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the

water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes. Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP). Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis.

For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

Several steps have been taken for improvement/restoration of quality of water bodies in the country and some of them are :

(i) Ensuring industries, located on the banks of rivers and lakes, set up the requisite pollution control facilities.

(ii) Issuance of Directives to the defaulting industries for preventing discharge of untreated waste water into water bodies.

(iii) Formulation and implementation of National River and Lake Conservation Plan for restoration of water quality of the rivers and lakes.

Statement

River basinwise water availability and per capita availability

River Basin	Average Annual Surface Water Availability (billion cubic Metre)	Per Capita Water availability in the year 2001 (cubic Metre)
1	2	3
Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert	Negl.	
Sabarmati	3.81	298
East Flowing Rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari	16.46	301
Pennar	6.32	535

1	2	3
West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni	15.1	562
Cauvery	21.36	599
East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	22.52	784
Tapi	14.88	826
Mahi	11.02	863
Krishna	78.12	1056
Subarnarekha	12.37	1082
Ganga-Brahmputra-Barak Basin		
a. Ganga Sub-basin	525.02	1202
b. Brahmaputra and Barak Sub-basin	585.60	13636
Indus	73.31	1438
Godavari	110.54	1683
Mahanadi	66.88	2067
Brahmani & Baitarni	[illegible]48	2388
Narmada	45.64	252
West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tadri	87.41	2785
West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	113.53	2862
Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	31.00	16990
Total /Average (National)	1869.35	1820

NOTE : Totals may not tally due to rounding off.